

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SAB-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 PC-05 SAM-01 /086 W

----- 054664

R 161400Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6086

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 7719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF CROSS-BURNING INCIDENT IN CANAL ZONE

1. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 LA EDITION OF MIAMI "HERALD" APPEARING IN PANAMA CARRIED PAGE 1 STORY WITH HEADLINE "CROSS BURNS AT HOME IN CANAL ZONE". STORY REPORTS OCCURENCE AT HOME OF BLACK U.S. CITIZEN PANCANAL EMPLOYEE HAROLD CARROLL IN BALBOA. STORY STATES THAT IN ADDITION TO 3-FOOT HIGH CROSS BURNED AT CARROLL HOME, A ROCK HAD BEEN THROWN THROUGH WINDOW OF SAME HOUSE SEVERAL DAYS PREVIOUSLY. ARTICLE NOTES THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED "SOME DAYS AGO" BUT HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC BY ZONE AUTHORITIES; IT ALSO JUXTAPOSES THIS INCIDENT WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GOVERNOR'S RECENT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN PANCANAL PRACTICES IN REGARD TO HOUSING, SCHOOLS AND SECURITY POSITIONS.

2. PANCANAL AUTHORITIES INFORM US THAT INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 21, 1975, AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 P.M.; THREE-FOOT CROSS WAS BURNED IN BACK YARD OF HOUSE TO WHICH CARROLL HAD MOVED SHORTLY BEFORE. CARROLL WAS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN ANOTHER AMERICAN TOWNSITE IN CANAL ZONE (DIABLO), AND HAD HAD NO TROUBLE WHATSOEVER WITH NEIGHBORS IN FORMER RESIDENCE. CARROLL'S 9-YEAR OLD

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SON REPORTED SEEING MALE CAUCASIAN WITH LONG HAIR,

ABOUT 12 YEARS OF AGE, RUNNING FROM SCENE. CANAL ZONE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT INCLUDED CANVASS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WHICH DISCLOSED NO WITNESSES; ALL FAMILIES IN AREA REPORTED CHILDREN OF RIGHT AGE TO HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR AT TIME OF INCIDENT. PANCANAL RECORDS INCLUDE NO MENTION OF PREVIOUS ROCK-THROWING INCIDENT REPORTED IN PAPER. POLICE INVESTIGATION, HAVING HIT DEAD END, WAS CLOSED; PANCANAL MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT ON INCIDENT, AND PANCANAL INFORMATION OFFICE INFORMS US THEY HAVE NO SPECIAL STATEMENT ABOUT IT TO USE AT THIS TIME.

3. RUMOR OF THIS INCIDENT HAD BEEN FLOATING AROUND FOR SOME DAYS PRIOR TO MIAMI "HERALD" STORY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL CHAPTER OF NAACP IS INVESTIGATING INCIDENT, AND PLANS TO RELEASE STATEMENT ON IT TO LOCAL PRESS. THERE WILL BE NO MORNING PAPERS ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, DUE TO PRESS HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF TYPOGRAPHERS' UNION, BUT INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY APPEAR IN TUESDAY AFTERNOON OR WEDNESDAY MORNING PAPERS.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT TYPE AND EXTENT OF PRESS PLAY AND COMMENT, IF ANY, AS IT APPEARS.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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